

Biographic notes of old settlers /

BIOGRAPHIC NOTES OF OLD SETTLERS.* BY HON. HENRY L. MOSS.

* A paper read before the Old Settlers' Association of Minnesota, at its annual meeting, June 1, 1897; also read at the monthly meeting of the Executive Council of the Minnesota Historical Society, December 13, 1897.

Mr. President and fellow members of the Old Settlers' Association: It gives me pleasure to greet you once more, on the annual recurrence of the day when Minnesota became known to the world as an organized government, under the laws of the Federal Union.

The chairman of your Executive Committee, from the day that he assumed to exercise executive authority over the new Territory of Minnesota forty-eight years ago, has at all times been active in keeping alive the memories of the days of our beginning, and the developments of the new territory and future state. He has requested me to present on this anniversary of our association a review of the events which preceded the organization of the territory, and of the men who were active in perfecting it.

While there has been much written and published concerning the early days of our history as a state and territory, and the men who were active and participated in its organization, a further record thereof might seem unnecessary and cumulative; yet it will never be considered, I think, out of place for the "Old Settlers" of Minnesota, on the occasion of their annual gathering, to have their memories revived and refreshed of those who were once our associates and companions in the adventures of our early history and the struggles of a pioneer life, some of whom still remain with us, while the greater number are enrolled among the departed.

What then can be more appropriate, on this occasion of our annual meeting, than to mingle in memory with those who 144 were the charter members of our organization? and

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also with the members of the Territorial Legislature, who first exercised authority to enact laws to govern Minnesota? It is especially suitable thus to celebrate this semi-centennial of 1847, as our existence had its foundation in the events of that year.

I therefore assume this A. D. 1897 as the fiftieth anniversary of the "Old Settlers;" for several among our number were prominent and active in 1847 in the incipient movements of laying the foundations of the future Minnesota. The events of that year are so intimately associated with the culminating period of 1849, the year of our Territorial birth, and with the men who became the charter members of the Old Settlers' Association, that the purposes of this paper would be incomplete, did it not refer to those who were prominent in 1847. Think of the contrast between then and now! The developments and changes of fifty years!

In 1847, the location of St. Paul was unsold government land, a rough broken country, comprising tamarack swamp, sand hills, rocky ravines, and quagmires and sloughs that were the abode of muskrats and other aquatic animals. A portion of about ninety acres was that part of the present city area lying between Seventh street and the Mississippi river and extending from the "Seven Corners" to Sibley street. This tract was occupied by squatters who had a law unto themselves, which recognized the rights and claims of the settlers to be as sacred and effective as under a patent from the United States government.

HENRY JACKSON.

Of the persons prominent in those days I will first mention Henry Jackson. He was born in Abington, Virginia, February 1st, 1811. He arrived in St. Paul on the night of June 9th, 1842, with his wife, and found shelter in a cabin occupied by one Abraham Perry. Within a few days he rented a small cabin of Pierre Parrant, who had been the founder and proprietor of that more ancient settlement known as "Pig's Eye," of which Saint Paul was the western suburb. Jackson's rented cabin was on the levee near the foot of the present

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Jackson street, where he remained till he built a log cabin for himself 145 on the point of the bluff in the rear of the present St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance building. In the new cabin he opened a stock of goods suitable for the Indian trade and also "kept tavern."

Henry Jackson was a remarkable man, shrewd, active, jolly, and ever equal to any emergency. He was, in his day, legislator, postmaster, justice of the peace, merchant, and hotel keeper. On April 7th, 1846, the postoffice of St. Paul was established, and on the same day Mr. Jackson was appointed postmaster.

Only three postoffices had been previously established within the limits of the present state of Minnesota. The office at Fort Snelling was established January 22nd, 1834, and the first postmaster was Samuel C. Stambaugh. The business done at this office was limited chiefly to the military post and the Indian agency. The second postoffice, established July 8th, 1840, was known as Lake St. Croix, and was discontinued December 11th of the same year, the receipts having amounted to only \$23.53. It was, however, reestablished December 23rd, 1841, and is now known as Point Douglas, in Washington county. The third office was established January 14th, 1846, at Stillwater, and Elam Greeley was appointed the postmaster. Its first year's receipts amounted to \$101.93. For the year 1896 its receipts were \$14,054.70.

The next or fourth postoffice was established at St. Paul, April 7th, 1846, as before stated. The receipts for the year 1846 amounted to \$14.70; and the receipts from the same office for the year 1896 amounted to \$433,706.99. These figures illustrate the growth of this city in the past fifty years.

I first became acquainted with Henry Jackson in 1847, when he was a member of the Legislature of Wisconsin Territory. The district represented by him was composed of the counties of Crawford, Chippewa, St. Croix, and La Pointe, which together embraced the entire country northwest of the Wisconsin river, extending to lake Superior and the British possessions. In both the territorial legislature and the convention to form the constitution

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of the state of Wisconsin, Mr. Jackson took an active part for securing the St. Croix lake and river as the western boundary of the proposed state of Wisconsin. Thereby he foresaw that a new Territory would be 10 146 assured. From him I had my first information of the probability of the new proposed Territory of Minnesota. Upon its organization he was one of the representatives from St. Paul in the first session of the Territorial legislature.

Mr. Jackson removed with his family from St. Paul to Mankato in April, 1853, being among the first settlers of that prosperous city, where he died July 31st, 1857.

Did the purposes of this article admit, I might make it consist entirely of a relation of incidents in the life of this pioneer merchant and magistrate. I will, however, only mention one more, as evidence of his tact and ingenuity in solving a dilemma. Sometime during the winter of 1843–44, Governor Dodge of Wisconsin Territory appointed Mr. Jackson justice of the peace. On account of the infrequency of the transmission of the mail during the winter season, a long time elapsed, after his bonds were sent to the Governor, before his commission was received. In the meantime a young man and woman applied to Mr. Jackson to be married. Jackson knew he had been appointed justice of the peace; but he had not received his commission, and requested them to wait a few days. This they were unwilling to do, as they were anxious to be married without any delay. Mr. Jackson at once solved the difficulty by proposing to them to give a bond, that they would come and be legally married after he had received his commission; they at once consented to this arrangement, and the bond was executed and delivered, whereupon Jackson told the youthful couple to go their way and be happy, and when he received his commission they could come again and be legally married.

JACOB W. BASS.

It was in August, 1847, that Jacob W. Bass came to St. Paul. He was born in Baintree, Vermont, in 1815. Soon after his arrival in St. Paul, he leased the building on the corner of

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Third and Jackson streets, the history of which from that date to the present time is a part of the history of St. Paul, namely, the Merchants' Hotel.

In August, 1846, one Leonard H. Laroche had built a cabin of tamarack logs on a tract of ground he had bought of Henry Belland for \$165, the description of which, in his deed, would in these days be questioned by a "title lawyer," but at that time the deed was sufficient to determine and secure the rights of the parties interested. The tract of land was described as "bounded on the front and back by Henry Jackson's land, and on the sides by McLeod and Desmarais." This location is known to be a part of the land on which the Merchants' Hotel now stands. In the early part of the year 1847, Simeon P. Folsom bought this property from Laroche, and made some improvements on the building and kept it as a tavern till about the 10th day of November in the same year, when he leased the same to Mr. Bass for a hotel at a rental of \$10 per month. Additional improvements were made, so that it became in 1848 a good two-story log building, to which was given the name "St. Paul House." It was thereafter conducted by Mr. Bass as a hotel till the spring of 1852; when he retired from it, having for two years kept the postoffice in it. He was appointed postmaster of St. Paul, July 5th, 1849, and held the office till March 18th, 1853, when he was succeeded by William H. Forbes.

From the time when he left the Merchants' Hotel, in the spring of 1852, till his death, Mr. Bass was engaged in active business in St. Paul, and became prominent in every movement and enterprise that pertained to the growth and improvement of the city. He died in the month of May, 1889, and his remains were laid in final rest in Oakland cemetery. Mrs. Bass, his estimable wife, still survives, a joy and blessing to their children, and, as she always has done, gladdens the eyes and hearts of her numerous friends with her presence.

WILLIAM H. FORBES

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was born in Montreal, Canada, November 13th, 1815. He came to Mendota in the summer of 1837, and for ten years was clerk for Gen. H. H. Sibley, who at that time had charge of the business of the American Fur Company at that place.

In 1847 Mr. Forbes came to St. Paul, and took charge of the business of that company here under the name of "The St. Paul Outfit;" and from that time he continued his residence here till his death. He was one of the proprietors of the original surveyed plat, now known as "St. Paul proper." Upon the organization of the Territory, he was elected to the legislature from St. Paul as a member of the Territorial Council; and he 148 was subsequently reelected, being a member of four successive councils. In 1852, during the third session, he was elected by his associates president of the council.

On March 18th, 1853, Mr. Forbes was appointed postmaster of St. Paul as successor of J. W. Bass. During the same year he became associated with N. W. Kittson and engaged in the Indian and fur trade of the Northwest, and for several years did a very large business, which was terminated in 1862 by the Indian outbreak of that year.

He held prominent positions in the military service of the United States during the campaign against the Sioux Indians and the war of the Rebellion. He was the provost marshal at the military trial of the three hundred Sioux Indians who were condemned to death. He was also a commissary of subsistence in the volunteer service, appointed by President Lincoln with rank of captain; in 1868 he was chief commissary in the District of Northern Missouri; and subsequently he was engaged as chief quartermaster in General Fremont's department. For his valuable services, he was brevetted a major in the volunteer service.

Mr. Forbes at one time was the auditor of Ramsey county, and held other civil offices to which he was well fitted; and performed his duties in whatever position he was placed with ability and fidelity, without ever a word of criticism or suspicion to his discredit.

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He died July 20th, 1875, deeply lamented by numerous friends, and his body was entombed in the Catholic cemetery of St. Paul in the presence of many prominent citizens.

JAMES M. BOAL

was a native of Pennsylvania, and came to St. Paul in 1846. He was known by the "Old Settlers" of that day as "McBoal," doubtless from his true name being James McClellan Boal. A prominent street in St. Paul is named from him, McBoal street. He was a conspicuous character in the early days of the territory, a good hearted and genial fellow, a friend to all he knew, generous, being sometimes even liberal to a fault. He was elected in 1849 from St. Paul as a member of the Territorial Council for two years. He was appointed by Governor Ramsey 149 as Adjutant General of the Territory, and held that position till his successor was appointed in 1853 by Governor Gorman. He died in 1862, after a long and severe illness, at Mendota, where his remains were buried.

DR. JOHN J. DEWEY

was a native of the state of New York and came to St. Paul July 15th, 1847. He was a graduate of the Albany Medical College, and upon his arrival in St. Paul immediately entered upon his profession, being the first regular practicing physician that located here. Previous to that time the settlers had depended upon the surgeons at Fort Snelling, for medical or surgical aid.

Dr. Dewey was elected from St. Paul a member of the House of Representatives of the first Territorial Legislature. In 1848 he became associated with Charles Cavalier (now a resident of Pembina, North Dakota) in business, and they established the first drug store in St. Paul. He died April 1st, 1891, and his remains were buried in Oakland cemetery.

It is not my purpose to limit this article only to the lives of those who were in St. Paul in 1847, but to include some of the more prominent persons of those days who were members of the first Territorial Legislature, which commenced its session September 3rd,

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1849, and who were residents of other parts of the Territory in 1847, whose names and lives have become a part of our state history.

The legislature was composed of the Council, having nine members, and the House of Representatives, having eighteen members. All the members of the first Council are dead; and only four are now living who were members of the House of Representatives.

WILLIAM R. MARSHALL

was born October 17th, 1825, in Boone county, Missouri. In September, 1847, he went to St. Anthony Falls (now the east part of Minneapolis), staked out a claim, and cut the logs for a cabin. From the want of a team to haul the logs he was obliged to defer the building of his cabin till the next year. In the spring of 1849 he became permanently located there, and was elected from that district as a member of the House 150 in the first Territorial Legislature. He died at the age of seventy years January 8th, 1896, at Pasadena, California; and his remains now repose in the beautiful grounds of Oakland cemetery. The record of his life in Minnesota is a part of our Territorial and State history. Whatever may have been his position, as governor of the state, as a member of the legislature, or as a general in the army of the Union, he gave honor to Minnesota, and won the lasting gratitude of her people.

DAVID OLMSTED

was born in Vermont, May 5th, 1822. He was a trader with the Winnebago Indians in 1844 near Fort Atkinson, Iowa, and in 1848 accompanied them on their removal to Long Prairie in this state; and at the same time he opened a trading house in St. Paul. He was elected a member of the Territorial Council in 1849, from the district which included Long Prairie, and was chosen its president. He was also a member of the Council at the second session of the Legislature in 1851.

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In 1853 Mr. Olmsted made St. Paul his permanent residence, and in the spring of 1854 was elected the first mayor, under the charter that incorporated the City of St. Paul. In 1855 he received the Democratic nomination for delegate in Congress, but was defeated by Hon. H. M. Rice. For several years his health became impaired; and February 2nd, 1861, he died at the home of his parents in Franklin county, Vermont. He was popular and much esteemed in public life during his residence in Minnesota; and the county of Olmsted, among the most flourishing in our state, will ever be a monument to his memory.

MORTON S. WILKINSON

was born in Skaneateles, Onondaga county, New York, January 22nd, 1819. He was admitted to the practice of law in Syracuse, N. Y.; and came to Stillwater, May 17th, 1847. He was not only the first practicing attorney in Minnesota, but was the first practicing attorney in the entire country northwest west of Prairie du Chien. His life in Minnesota has become a part of its history. He was prominent in the councils of our country in both houses of our national Congress, and in the legislatures of Minnesota. In 1849, he was a member of the first Territorial Legislature. In 1858, he was one of the commissioners 151 to compile the statutes of the state of Minnesota. In 1859, he was elected United States senator; in 1868, was elected representative in Congress; and in the years 1874 to 1877, was state senator from Blue Earth county. He died at Wells, in this state, February 4th, 1894. Mr. Wilkinson as a lawyer was an earnest and forcible advocate. During the war of the Rebellion he was in the United States Senate, and won a national reputation in his eloquent appeals to the people to maintain the unity and integrity of the government.

JEREMIAH RUSSELL

was born in Madison county, New York, February 2nd, 1809. He came to Fort Snelling in 1837, and for more than ten years was engaged in various capacities as clerk and manager of business enterprises; and in 1848 he located at Crow Wing, to take charge of the trading establishment of Borup and Oakes. It was in November of this year that I first

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made his acquaintance, on the occasion of the annual payment to the Chippewa Indians at Crow Wing. He was elected a member of the House of the first Territorial Legislature. In the fall of 1849 he located at Sauk Rapids, and started the first farm in that part of the state northwest of Rum river. In whatever position he occupied, he was a courteous and genial man, and by his integrity and Christian character he won the respect and love of those who were fortunate to know him. He died June 13th, 1885.

SYLVANUS TRASK

was born in Otsego county, New York, November 16th, 1811. He spent his boyhood and youthful days in his native county, and received there an academic education and devoted several years to teaching. He came to Stillwater in 1848, and was elected from the Stillwater district in 1849 to the House of the first Territorial Legislature. All "Old Settlers" will remember him as a regular attendant of our annual meetings, and worthy representative from the St. Croix valley. He died at Stillwater in April, 1897.

JOSEPH W. FURBER

was born in Farmington, New Hampshire, in 1813. His ancestors were among those sterling and rugged settlers of the Granite State in the last century. His father was a soldier 152 of the war of 1812. In 1840 he came to the St. Croix valley and located at St. Croix Falls. In 1844 he removed to Cottage Grove, and opened a farm, where he made his future residence till his death. In 1846 he was elected a member of the Wisconsin territorial legislature. The district he represented was the entire country north and west of a line from a point on lake Pepin to lake Superior. As an evidence of his energy, I refer to the fact that for his attendance in the Legislature at Madison in the session of 1847 he traveled on foot from his home in Cottage Grove as far as Prairie du Chien.

He was a member of the first Territorial Legislature of Minnesota and was elected speaker of the House at its session in September, 1849. He was appointed marshal of the Territory by President Fillmore in 1851. It was at this time that I came to know him intimately,

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because our positions as officers of the the federal government brought us together very frequently. I knew him as a faithful officer, of strong intellect, persistence in his convictions, and a pure character. He died at his family residence in Cottage Grove on the 10th day of July, 1884.

JAMES S. NORRIS

was born in Kennebec county, Maine, in 1810. He came to the St. Croix valley in 1839, and located at St. Croix Falls; and subsequently, like Mr. Furber, started a farm at Cottage Grove. He represented that district in the first Legislature in 1849, and afterward represented Washington county in 1855 and 1856. He was elected speaker of the House at the session of 1855, and was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1857.

He was a man of a strong will and purpose in his convictions and action. He was an active partisan of the Democratic party in our Territorial days, a real "wheel horse" of the Democratic chariot. He died at his home in Cottage Grove, March 5th, 1874.

LORENZO A. BABCOCK

was born in Sheldon, Vermont. He came into the Territory June 25th, 1848, from Maquoketa, Iowa, and located at Sauk Rapids as attorney at law, and was elected from that district to the first Legislature. Upon the organization of the Territory, he was appointed Attorney General by Governor Ramsey, 153 which office he held till his successor was appointed May 15th, 1853, by Governor Gorman. He was secretary of the Constitutional Convention in 1857.

GIDEON H. POND

was born in Washington, Connecticut. He came as a missionary among the Indians in 1834, and located at lake Calhoun in Hennepin county. He represented the district west of the Mississippi river in the first Territorial Legislature. His life in Minnesota is a part of

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its history and of the Christian Church with which he was associated. His labors for the welfare of the Indians for whom he was devoting his life were self-sacrificing. He had a strong intellectual mind, a kind and tender heart.

In speaking of his death, The Pioneer of January 21st, 1876, said: "If ever there was a true man and a faithful and earnest Christian on the face of the earth, that man was Gideon H. Pond."

It gives me pleasure, on this occasion of the meeting of the "Old Settlers" to bear this tribute to his memory; and I doubt not that our associate, Governor Ramsey, who knew him well, will heartily unite with me in this expression of commendation and remembrance.

DAVID B. LOOMIS

was born in Willington, Connecticut, April 17th, 1817. He came to the St. Croix valley in 1843, and for many years resided at Marine Mills in Washington county. He was the member of the Council from that district in the first Territorial Legislature in 1849, and also of the second session in 1851.

Mr. Loomis had a genial and generous nature. No one knew him but to respect him. No worthy appeal made to him for aid was turned away empty-handed. He enlisted as a soldier in the war of the Rebellion, and was commissioned lieutenant of Company F of the Second Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers in July, 1861; and in March, 1863, he was commissioned captain of the same company.

He died February 24th, 1897, at the Soldiers' Home near Fort Snelling, having passed the last few years of his life an invalid and a worthy subject of that institution. His remains have their final resting place, where many of his old friends 154 and associates have been laid before him, in the beautiful Fairview cemetery at Stillwater.

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Time will not permit me to extend this notice to speak particularly of other members of the First Legislature who are numbered among the departed, of whom indeed I could speak in words of commendation, and with whom I was acquainted. I will name them:

Samuel Burkleo, of Stillwater and Marine Mills;

John Rollins, of St. Anthony Falls;

William R. Sturges, of Sauk Rapids and Little Falls; and Martin McLeod, of Traverse des Sioux; who were members of the Council.

James Wells, of Lake Pepin and vicinity;

William Dugas, of Little Canada, Ramsey county;

Allan Morrison, of Crow Wing;

Thomas A. Holmes, of Long Prairie; and

Alexis Bailey, of Mendota and Wabasha; who were members of the House of Representatives.

I cannot omit to mention the living. There are only four "Old Settlers" living who were members of the First Legislature. Two of them were residents of St. Paul in 1847.

PARSONS K. JOHNSON

still lives, an honor to his name as one of the original legislators that gave political life to our state and city. At an earlier day, on Sunday, July 25th, 1847, he made his name memorable and became historical by being an assistant in organizing the first Sunday School in St. Paul. On that occasion he was associated with our esteemed "Old Settler,"

BENJAMIN W. BRUNSON

who also is still a living witness of the sterling qualities that possessed the souls of our worthy pioneers. These two gallant young men, with kindly feelings and worthy motives, tendered their services to Miss Harriet E. Bishop (who a few days previous had arrived in St. Paul) to assist her in starting a Sunday School, to give religious instruction to the children of this embryonic city. On this occasion, there were seven children gathered in a small log cabin that Miss Bishop had secured. 155 There was a mixture of races among these seven children; some of them could only understand English, while others could only talk or understand French, and still others were limited to the Sioux language. As Miss Bishop needed no assistance in giving instruction in English, it fell to the lot of our two friends to act as interpreters and to give instruction and read the catechism to the French and Sioux children.

The name of Benjamin W, Brunson is historic of what St. Paul was in 1847. The records of our county and city bear witness that he at that time lived in the wilderness, but without a change of residence now lives in a city of over 150,000 inhabitants.

The other two living members are

HENRY N. SETZER,

who was elected from the district composed of Marine Mills and other precincts on the St. Croix river; and

MAHLON BLACK.

from the Stillwater district. Both came to the St. Croix valley in 1842. I have no intention of writing an ante-obituary of their lives, and I will leave it for each of them to tell their own experiences as lawmakers of this commonwealth, and as defenders of the flag of our country. They still survive as specimens of the men who laid the foundations of our

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prosperous State. May their future days be extended through many years, joyful and happy with their friends, as the past fifty years have been to each of them.

An incident in the life of Mr. Setzer is worthy of special notice, for which the citizens of St. Paul will always hold him in remembrance, with feelings of gratitude on account of his unswerving integrity and stability of character as the friend of this city. I refer to the closing scenes of the eighth and last Territorial Legislature, in which Mr. Setzer was a member of the Council.

A bill for the removal of the capital from St. Paul to St. Peter had passed both houses of the Legislature, and was returned to the Council, where it had originated, for enrollment and signature of the president. On the 27th day of February, 1857, the original bill and the enrolled copy were placed in the hands of Joseph Rolette, councilor from Pembina county and 156 chairman of the Enrollment Committee, to compare them. On the following day, February 28th, Mr. Rolette was not in his seat. The bill, being in his possession, could not be reported. Pending a resolution ordering another member of the enrolling committee to procure another enrolled copy and report the same, upon which motion the previous question was ordered, Mr. Setzer moved a call of the Council, which was ordered, and the sergeant at arms was requested to report Mr. Rolette in his seat. On account of the indisposition of John B. Brisbin, the president of the Council, Mr. Setzer was called to the chair, which he occupied for more than a hundred and twenty consecutive hours. The Council under the existing apportionment comprised fourteen members, Mr. Rolette being the only absent member. Mr. Setzer presided with great self-possession and calm dignity. He refused, while the Council was under a call, to accept a substitute for the original bill. It required two-thirds of the members to suspend the call; there were nine votes in favor of suspending the call, and four votes in opposition. Upon this voting, President Brisbin decided the call not suspended; and Acting President Setzer would not allow the Council to transact any business pending the call. While in this condition the limit of the time for the session of the Legislature expired. At the hour of twelve o'clock midnight, March 5th, 1857,

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the call still pending, after a continuous session of five days and nights, Mr. Brisbin, the president, resumed the chair and declared the Council adjourned *sine die* .

It was the decisions and rulings of Mr. Setzer, while presiding on this occasion, which prevented the removal of the capital of Minnesota from St. Paul to St. Peter. Our fellow associate, Mr. John D. Ludden, was a member of the Territorial Council at this session, and I doubt not that he will confirm what I have here said of Mr. Setzer.

The members of the First Territorial Legislature were truly representative men. Among the number were farmers, lawyers, merchants, physicians, clergymen, manufacturers, engineers, and men holding confidential and fiduciary positions with commercial and manufacturing companies. Such were the men who on Monday, the 3rd day of September, 1849, met together as the first session of the Minnesota Legislature at the capitol, then known as the "Central House," a hotel located on 157 the northeast corner of Minnesota and Second streets. in this city, being a two-story log building covered with rough siding. The business of the hotel, being small, did not interfere with legislative proceedings. The Secretary of the Territory had established his office in the front room on the right hand of the hall at the main entrance of the building; and he permitted the representatives to occupy it as their "House" for the session. The members of the Council went upstairs into a small room known as the "library," which was the "Council Chamber";

Of this Legislature and its location, a writer in the Pioneer of that date wrote: "Both houses met in the dining hall, where Rev. E. D. Neill prays for us all, and Gov. Ramsey delivers a message full of hope and farsighted prophecy to comfort us, and then leaves the poor devils sitting on rough board benches and chairs after dinner to work out, as best they can, the old problem of self-government through the appalling labyrinths of parliamentary rules and tactics that vex their souls." Yet no legislature which ever set in Minnesota was made of better stuff than that which assembled to lay the corner stone of this political edifice.

I should be guilty of injustice to our pioneer history, if I (did not mention an important element in our development and progress, namely, the educational factor in St. Paul, which had its beginnings in 1847. It was July 16th, 1847, when

MISS HARRIET E. BISHOP

landed at Kaposia, Little Crow's village, with the helping hand of our esteemed and gallant associate, Captain Russell Blakeley, who was her escort and assisted her to walk the stage plank from the deck of the steamer Argo, safely placing her upon the soil of the future Minnesota. She was met with the cordial greeting of the Rev. Dr. Williamson, located at that point as a missionary among the Sioux Indians. Dr. Williamson, foreseeing the importance and necessity of educational and religious instruction of the people in St. Paul, had solicited Governor Slade, of Vermont, to secure the services of a proper person as teacher; and through the influence of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe and her sister, Miss Catherine Beecher, the selection of Miss Bishop was made, to be located at St. Paul as a teacher of youth.

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She was an ardent member of the Baptist Church, and possessed a genuine and pure missionary spirit. She published a book in 1857, called "Floral Home, or First Years of Minnesota," in which she relates the events of her pioneer experience. It was a severe mental struggle and a sacrifice for her, a young and inexperienced lady, to leave the home of her childhood, loving friends and the comforts of civilization, for the rude habitation of a distant unsettled part of the country, almost surrounded by Indian tribes. She yielded to her sense of the call of duty and the opportunity of doing good.

After a short stay with the family of Dr. Williamson, in the absence of other mode of conveyance, she was taken into a canoe, of the kind known as a "dug-out," paddled by two stout young Sioux squaws, and landed in St. Paul on July 18th, 1847, her future home. She says, in her "Floral Home," of the occasion of her landing in St. Paul: "A cheerless

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prospect greeted this view. A few log huts composed the 'town'—three families the American population. With one of these, distant from the rest, a home was offered me. [It was the dwelling of J. R. Irvine and family.] Their was *the* dwelling—the only one of respectable size—containing three rooms and an attic.”

Miss Bishop immediately arranged for a school room. It was a vacant log cabin, on the northeasterly corner of West Third and St. Peter streets, which had previously been occupied as a dwelling by Scott Campbell. On July 25th, 1847, she started a Sabbath school, with seven children, which on the third Sunday thereafter was increased to the number of twenty-five children. From that date, fifty years ago, till the present time, this school has continued successfully, in growth and influence; and it is now known as the Sunday School of the First Baptist Church of this city.

During the following winter of 1847-'48, Miss Bishop started the project of having a public building for the purposes of her school, to be used also for church purposes, public lectures, elections and other public gatherings,—the size to be 25 by 30 feet. She organized, among the ladies, “The St. Paul Circle of Industry,” of which Mrs. Bass, Mrs. Jackson, and Mrs. Irvine, were members, the total number being eight ladies. This was the first “Woman's Club” organized in this city. The money earned with the needle by the ladies of this society made a payment on the bill of lumber for this public building, which was finally completed and occupied in August, 1848. It stood on the north side of West Third street, about 100 feet westerly from St. Peter street, opposite to the site of the building now occupied by the West Publishing Company.

In 1849 three separate schools were established in St. Paul, one of which was under the care of Miss Bishop. Our minds can scarcely comprehend the change and growth of our public schools, contrasting the present with the beginning fifty years ago. Miss Bishop was born in Vergennes, Vermont, January 1st, 1817; and died in St. Paul, August 8th, 1883. To the time of her death, she was ever active and energetic in educational and Christian work.

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In commencing this review, it was my intention to notice briefly those of my associate officers, appointed by the President of the United States during the first four years of our Territorial existence, who are now numbered among the departed; but I forbear with only the mention of their names:

Charles K. Smith, Secretary of the Territory from June 1, 1849, to October 23, 1851.

Alexander Wilkin, Secretary of the Territory from October 23, 1851, to May 15, 1853.

Aaron Goodrich, Chief Justice, from June 1, 1849, to November 13, 1851.

Jerome Fuller, Chief Justice, from November 13, 1851, to December 16, 1852.

Henry Z. Hayner, Chief Justice, from December 16, 1852, to April 7, 1853.

David Cooper, Associate Justice, from June 1, 1849, to April 7, 1853.

Bradley B. Meeker, Associate Justice, from June 1, 1849, to April 7, 1853.

Alexander M. Mitchell, United States Marshal, from April, 1849, to June, 1851.

Henry L. Tilden, United States Marshal, from June, 1851, to the date of his death, January 19th, 1852, when he was succeeded by Joseph W. Furber, of whom I have spoken.

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OTHER OLD SETTLERS STILL LIVING.

I cannot conclude these reminiscences of the past without a brief notice of the living.

Here sits with us to-day our genial friend Simeon P. Folsom, who came to St. Paul in July, 1847. If he was only dead, I could mention many good things of him, and how he gave cheer and comfort to the pioneer souls of 1847 and 1848. As he still lives, there yet

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remains to him the opportunity to add to his record a name that future generations will be proud to emulate.

It would be unpardonable, if I failed to mention the name of our ever entertaining associate, William P. Murray, whose ingenuity to make a good story from nothing is unsurpassed by any "Old Settler." He can spin longer yarns, and tell you more of those things and matters of which he has knowledge, as well as of others which he knows nothing about, than any other mortal. It was by "the skin of his teeth" that he became an "Old Settler." If the lingering days of December, 1849, had been made shorter, he would have been left in the snowbanks between the Black and Chippewa rivers of Wisconsin, when the sunlight of January 1st, 1850, broke forth. May his life be prolonged to give cheer, joy, and happiness to all "Old Settlers" for many days to come, as he has done in days gone by.

And there is still with us our ancient friend of the St. Croix valley, John D. Ludden, who claims the year 1845 as the date of his birthright to the name of "Old Settler." His life in Minnesota is a summary of good deeds and wise counsel in every movement for the development and prosperity of Minnesota. He gives to-day the same candid, cautious, and deliberate consideration to every measure that has for its purpose the welfare of the state and its citizens, as in the days of the Territory, when he represented the interests of the St. Croix valley in many sessions of its Legislature.

I regret that Captain Russell Blakeley is not with us to-day. Business matters require his presence in an eastern state. His life for more than fifty years has been identified with projects and enterprises sufficient to make a volume of pioneer history. Even now in his age of more than fourscore years he exhibits that same foresight in the development of future possibilities 161 of our city as in former years. For twenty years after the organization of the Territory, he was instrumental in bringing thousands upon thousands of the early citizens into our state. Steamboats, Concord coaches, mud wagons, and other vehicles, were the instruments employed by him for that purpose. As long as life is spared

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to him, he can be relied upon as a prudent and sagacious counsellor in every undertaking and measure that will promote the prosperity of our city and state.

There is also with us today another "Old Settler" who never fails to join us in our annual gathering; I refer to our genial and efficient secretary, August L. Larpenteur, who has been a resident of St. Paul since September 15th, 1843. From that date for more than forty years he was engaged in mercantile business in this city. He is the only person now living who as merchant and trader did business in St. Paul prior to the organization of the Territory. He built the first frame dwelling house in St. Paul, in 1847, which became known in after years as the "Wild Hunter" saloon on Jackson street.

From the beginning, Mr. Larpenteur was active and prominent in settling and arranging the title to the lots in the original "Town of St. Paul." In 1847 St. Paul was unsurveyed government land. The original survey, by the United States government, of the town lines, was made in October, 1847; and in the following month of November the subdivisions were made. The original platting of St. Paul was made during the autumn of 1847, by Messrs. Ira B. Brunson and Benjamin W. Brunson, of Prairie du Chien; and the ownership of the various lots was amicably arranged and allotted among the claimants. At the government sale of the public lands at St. Croix Falls in August, 1848, it was mutually agreed among the claimants that Mr. H. H. Sibley of Mendota should make the purchase; and subsequently Mr. Larpenteur was selected as one of the three trustees to determine the just claims and rights of the claimants to the various lots in the town. Mr. Larpenteur was ever faithful to the trusts imposed upon him, and was endeared to the early settlers of St. Paul by his generosity and good fellowship toward them. Under the charter organization of the "Town of St. Paul," in 1849, Mr. Larpenteur was elected one of the trustees, and for several years thereafter he held 11 162 official positions, either in St. Paul or Ramsey county. For several years past he has not been engaged in any active business, and now in his advanced age lives surrounded with the comforts of a home,

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located in the western part of our city, where he has lived for more than forty years in the enjoyment of the affections of a beloved wife and children.

What shall I say, aye, what can I say more than has been said for the last forty-eight years, of our venerable associate, Governor Alexander Ramsey, who proclaimed existence and life in the framework of Minnesota under the inspiration and sign manual of President Zachary Taylor and Secretary Daniel Webster ? Associates, look upon him as he sits with us to-day! Twenty years ago he made a pre-emption claim upon the last banquet plate of the Old Settlers' annual gathering, and he stands ready to-day to make good that claim against any of us. Who shall venture to contest it?

As for your humble servant, he yields to none in high esteem and sincere respect for the "Old Settlers," and in hearty greetings to our Associates of the St. Croix valley. He still retains the youthful feelings of 1848, when he first trod upon the soil of this state, and to-day heartily joins with you all in commemorating the nativity of Minnesota.

Thanks are due to our esteemed associate, George L. Becker, who has this day furnished each of us a memento in which are enrolled the names of our charter members, numbering 102, which number has been reduced by the fell destroyer until now only twenty-one of those original members remain living.

As I sat in my library reading yesterday evening my wife brought to me a framed photograph taken ten years ago to-day, June 1st, 1887, from the steps of the capitol building. That photograph presents forty-five "Old Settlers" in a group. I looked upon those familiar faces with pleasure as well as in sorrow. Of that number twenty-two do not and cannot meet with us to-day, as they are gathered in other realms, from whence they cannot return; yet I feel that they are with us to-day in memory dear. Thus fall the sere and yellow leaves.